Availability of coal

*237.SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has carried out any study about the availability of coal taking thickness of the bed as the basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of coal reserves in the country, thickness-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) Coal resources in the country are assessed/compiled by the Geological Survey of India under the Ministry of Mines. As per the present practice, coal bed (seam) thickness of 0.9 meter and above is considered for resource estimation. Though the thickness of the coal bed (seam) is taken into account for estimation of resources, resources are not compiled on the basis of the seam thickness. The total coal resources as on 01.04.2009 in the country stand at 267210 million tonnes. The state-wise coal resources are given below:-

(in million tonnes)

State	Geological resources of Coal
Andhra Pradesh	18927
Arunachal Pradesh	90
Assam	387
Bihar	160
Chhattisgarh	44483
Jharkhand	76712
Madhya Pradesh	20981
Maharashtra	10154
Meghalaya	577
Nagaland	22
Orissa	65227
Sikkim	101
Uttar Pradesh	1062
West Bengal	28327
TOTAL :	267210

Circuit Benches of Supreme Court and High Courts

*238.SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:
SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:
Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Justice of India (CJI) is reported to have stated that there is a sharp rise in the number of criminal cases and fall in civil disputes; if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(b) whether it is a fact that 71 percent of the cases pending in the lower courts are criminal cases;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there are any plans before Government for setting up of Circuit Benches of Supreme Court and High Courts, so as to address this problem; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) No such report has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. As per the reports received from the High Courts, about 71% of the cases pending in the Subordinate Courts are criminal cases. Some of the main reasons for pendency in Subordinate Courts as identified by various Commissions and Committees including the Law Commission are given below:

(i) Population and Litigation Explosion.

(ii) Institution of fresh cases.

(iii) Inadequacy of Judges' strength.

(iv) Delays in filling up of vacancies in the Subordinate Courts.

(v) Inadequacy of staff attached to the Subordinate Courts.

(vi) Granting of unnecessary adjournments.

(vii) Frequent closure of courts on account of lawyers' strikes etc.

(d) and (e) According to Article 130 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint. The Government has not received any proposal from the Chief Justice of India for establishment of a Bench of the Supreme Court in any part of the country.

Setting up of Benches of High Courts away from their principal seats is considered by the Central Government on receipt of a complete proposal from the State Government which has the consent of the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. No such proposal has been received by the Central Government.

Supply of coal for Kayamkulam plant

*239.SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:
SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kayamkulam plant of NTPC Ltd. has not been working to full capacity, due to short supply of coal;